

**What is claimed is:**

1. A Media Gateway proxy logically positioned between a Media Gateway Controller (MGC) and a plurality of Media Gateways comprising:

5 a frontend for receiving a message from said MGC and parsing said message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

a memory, coupled to said frontend, for storing said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

10 middleware, coupled to said frontend, for finding in said memory said address of a said selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

an internal MGC, coupled to said middleware, for receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute, and forming a plurality of other messages using said sub-command, said address, and said attribute.

15 2. The Media Gateway proxy of claim 1:

wherein said internal MGC receives replies from said plurality of MGs, each of said replies containing the transaction completion associated with a selected sub-command; and

20 wherein said middleware determines if said replies include all of said transaction completions and wherein said frontend transmits a message when all replies have been received.

3. The Media Gateway proxy of claim 2 wherein said messages include transactions conforming to a media gateway protocol

4. The Media Gateway proxy of claim 3 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

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5. The Media Gateway proxy of claim 1 wherein said plurality of Media Gateways comprise a virtual grouping.

6. The Media Gateway proxy of claim 5 wherein said destination address is associated with said virtual grouping.

7. A method of transmitting and processing messages, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a message and parsing said message, said message including an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

15 storing in memory said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

finding in said memory said address of a selected one of said Media Gateways using said destination address and said attribute; and

20 receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forming a unique message for each of said sub-commands, said addresses, and said attributes.

8. The method of claim 7 comprising the further steps of:

receiving replies from said plurality of MGs, each of said replies including the transaction completion of selected one of said sub-commands;

5 determining if said replies include all of said transaction completions; and  
transmitting a message when all replies have been received.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said messages conform to a Media Gateway protocol.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein said protocol is MEGACO.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said destination address is the address of a virtual Media Gateway.

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12. A method of transmitting reply messages from Media Gateways to a Media Gateway Controller, wherein each of said reply messages received is in response to a message containing a sub-command, and all of said sub-commands contained in a single message, said method comprising the steps of:

20 receiving a reply message from a Media Gateway; and  
determining whether all replies have been received in response to said messages.

13. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

receiving a message and parsing said message, said message including an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

5 storing said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

finding in said memory said address of a selected one of said Media Gateways using said destination address and said attribute; and

receiving the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and  
10 forming a unique message for each of said sub-commands, said addresses, and said attributes.

14. A device for transmitting and processing messages comprising:

a first receiver that receives a message and parses said message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

15 a memory, coupled to said first receiver, that stores said message and said attributes, each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

a locator, coupled to said memory, that finds in said memory said address of a said selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

20 a second receiver, coupled to said locator, that receives the address of said gateway, said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages using said sub-command, said address, and said attribute.

15. The device of claim 14 further comprising:

a third receiver for receiving replies from said plurality of MGs, each reply containing transaction completions for a sub-command;

5 a determiner for determining if all of said sub-commands have been received; and

a transmitter for transmitting a message when all transaction completions of said sub-commands have been received.

16. A network comprising:

10 a Media Gateway Controller (MGC);

a Media Gateway proxy, said proxy coupled to said MGC and comprising:

a first receiver that receives a message and parses said message, said message containing an attribute, sub-command, and a destination address;

a memory, coupled to said first receiver, that stores said message and said attributes,  
15 each of said attributes corresponding to a selected one of said plurality of Media Gateways, each of said gateways having an address;

a locator, coupled to said memory, that finds in said memory said address of a said selected Media Gateway using said destination address and said attribute; and

a second receiver, coupled to said locator, that receives the address of said gateway,  
20 said subcommand, and said attribute and forms messages using said sub-command, said address, and said attribute; and

a plurality of Media Gateways coupled to said Media Gateway proxy.